

---

## 8. PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

---

This EIR chapter describes existing water supply and service, sewer service, police and fire protection, schools, parks and recreation, and solid waste collection and recycling services in the project area, identifies project-related demands for these services, and recommends mitigation measures for any identified potentially significant project impacts.

### 8.1 WATER

#### 8.1.1 Setting

(a) Citywide Water Supply. The City of Sunnyvale has contractual agreements with the San Francisco Water Department and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) for water supplies. The City also maintains its own water wells. Approximately 95 percent of the City's water demand is fulfilled by the San Francisco Water Department (50 percent, or approximately 11,000 acre-feet annually) and the SCVWD (45 percent, or approximately 10,000 acre-feet annually). The remaining five percent (approximately 1,130 acre-feet annually) is provided by City wells; the wells have the capacity to produce over 10,000 acre-feet per year. During emergencies, the City can connect with the cities of Santa Clara, Mountain View, and Cupertino for additional water supplies. The City also receives non-potable recycled water (potentially 3.5 million gallons per day), primarily for irrigation, from the City's Water Pollution Control Plant.<sup>1, 2</sup> On average, Sunnyvale's total available potable water supply (San Francisco Water Department + SCVWD + well capacity) equates to approximately 27.67 million gallons per day (mgd); with the potential addition of up to 3.5 mgd of non-potable recycled water, the city's total available water supply would be approximately 31.17 mgd.

Water is distributed to residences and businesses by the City's Department of Public Works, which oversees a municipal water distribution system consisting of approximately 280 miles of water mains.<sup>3</sup> Annually, the department forecasts a 20-year projection for water demand. As

---

<sup>1</sup>City of Sunnyvale, Olson Cherry Orchard Mixed-Use Project Final Environmental Impact Report. Prepared by ESA, May 1999, p. III.12-1.

<sup>2</sup>City of Sunnyvale General Plan, Environmental Management Element, Water Resources Sub-Element, 1996, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup>Water Resources Sub-Element, p. 4.

part of water resources planning, the City annually projects water demand from supply sources, pricing for each of the potable sources, recycled water deliveries, and the cost of power for the wells.<sup>1</sup>

(b) Current Water Demand. The average daily water demand in Sunnyvale for 1995, the most recent year for which historical data is available, was approximately 20.6 mgd.<sup>2</sup> In 1989, the City adopted water conservation plans that required, among other actions, mandatory water conservation and best management practices (BMPs). Since then, an approximately 23 to 29 percent reduction in water use has been achieved, despite a continually increasing citywide population.<sup>3</sup>

(c) Water Mains in the Project Area. The project area is served by an extensive network of water mains ranging in diameter from 4 inches to 12 inches.<sup>4</sup>

(d) Water Demand Factors. In estimating increased water demand resulting from new development, the City uses the following demand factors for residential and non-residential development:

- 102.5 gallons per day (gpd) per resident for residential development;
- 160 gpd per 1,000 square feet of building floor area for non-residential development;<sup>5</sup> and
- an additional 2.5 percent of total for firefighting and landscaping needs.<sup>6</sup>

#### **8.1.2 Pertinent Plans and Policies**

The City of Sunnyvale General Plan Environmental Management Element, Water Resources Sub-Element (adopted 1996) contains the following goals, policies, and action statements pertinent to water resources and service in the project area:

---

<sup>1</sup>Olson Cherry Orchard Mixed-Use Project Final EIR, p. III-12.1.

<sup>2</sup>*Water Resources Sub-Element*, p. 61.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

<sup>4</sup>City of Sunnyvale Water System Map, provided by the Department of Public Works, November 2002.

<sup>5</sup>Jim Craig, Field Services Superintendent, City of Sunnyvale Department of Public Works, written communication, February 19, 2003; and City of Sunnyvale Report on Water Distribution System Model, 2002, p. 4 (1999-2000 data).

<sup>6</sup>Judy Chu, Engineer, City of Sunnyvale Department of Public Works, written communication, March 17, 2003.

- *Manage future demands to ensure that existing and realistically certain future water supplies will be adequate. (Goal 3.1A, p. 68)*
- *Contract for water supplies based on projected reasonable demands. (Policy 3.1A.1, p. 68)*
- *Maintain a cost-effective preventative maintenance program that provides for sufficient reliability of all potable and reclaimed water system facilities. (Policy 3.1A.3, p. 68)*
- *Ensure that potable and reclaimed water meet all quality and health standards. (Goal 3.1B, p. 69)*
- *Ensure that backflow from potentially contaminated water services is prevented through an aggressive inspection and maintenance program. (Policy 3.1B.1, p. 69)*
- *Develop a comprehensive water quality monitoring program that meets or exceeds all state and federal requirements, while also meeting specific needs of the City and our citizens. (Policy 3.1B.2, p. 69)*
- *Develop an action plan to respond to and protect from contamination of water supplies. (Policy 3.1B.3, p. 70)*
- *Manage potable water demand through the effective use of water rates, conservation programs, and reclaimed water. (Goal 3.1D, p. 71)*
- *Provide for an ongoing potable water conservation program. (Policy 3.1D.1, p. 71)*
- *Support demand management programs identified as "Best Management Practices (BMPs)" in our Memorandum of Understanding with the State Department of Water Resources. (Action Statement 3.1D.1b, p. 72)*
- *Update the City's Urban Water Management Plan as required by the State. (Action Statement 3.1D.1c, p. 72)*
- *Monitor use and effectiveness of reclaimed water on turf and landscaping. (Action Statement 3.1D.3e, p. 73)*
- *Support efforts by both the federal and state governments to work cooperatively with municipal governments to ensure safe drinking water. (Policy 3.1G.1, p. 75)*
- *Support efforts to encourage reasonable demand-side water conservation programs. (Policy 3.1G.4, p. 76)*

- *Support ongoing state and local water conservation efforts, and support legislation encouraging the installation of reasonable water conservation devices in a building prior to transfer of title, provided there is some economic impact criteria. (Action Statement 3.1G.4a, p. 77)*

The *Housing and Community Revitalization Sub-Element* (adopted 2002) contains the following policy relevant to water resources and service in the project area:

- *As part of the development review process, review the capacity of the infrastructure to accommodate any increase in housing intensity. (Policy A.4.a, p. 66)*

### **8.1.3 Significance Criteria**

Based on the CEQA Guidelines (2002 edition, Appendix G, item XVI), the proposed project would create a significant environmental impact related to water supply and service if it would:

- (a) require or result in the construction of new water facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;<sup>1</sup> or
- (b) require new or expanded water entitlements.<sup>2</sup>

### **8.1.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

**Project Impacts on Water Supply.** The proposed project (i.e., the Downtown Improvement Program Update) and associated project-facilitated growth scenario (Table 3.3) would increase demand for water service. Based on the water demand factors listed above in subsection 8.1.1.d, the estimated 1,670 additional multi-family residential units (i.e., approximately 4,175 new residents--see chapter 6 of this EIR) would result in a water demand of approximately 438,600 gpd. The approximately 955,000 square feet of new non-residential development would generate an additional demand of approximately 156,600 gpd (including the removal of the 155 hotel rooms currently in the project area). The total demand for water resulting from the project would therefore be approximately 595,200 gpd. Project impacts on water demand would be ***less-than-significant*** since Sunnyvale's current water supply (approximately 27.67 mgd--see subsection 8.1.1.a) versus current water demand (approximately 20.6 mgd--see subsection 8.1.1.b) would be sufficient to accommodate these additional demand increments.

**Mitigation.** No significant water supply impact has been identified; no mitigation is required.

---

<sup>1</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, item XVI(b).

<sup>2</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, item XVI(d).

---

**Project Impacts on the Local Water Distribution System.** The Sunnyvale Department of Public Works has indicated plans to replace old or install new water mains throughout the project vicinity.<sup>1</sup> The construction period for these water facilities would be temporary. Construction would occur within existing public rights of way. Construction-period traffic interruption, noise, and dust typically associated with such infrastructure construction would be mitigated through standard City construction-period mitigation procedures. No unusual, significant environmental impact would be anticipated with this construction activity.

Prior to issuance of a building permit, site-specific developers of project-facilitated development would be required to pay any applicable water service hook-up costs to cover the City's existing and planned citywide water distribution system capital investments, and would be financially responsible for required on-site and off-site water utility improvements required for the site-specific development.

**Mitigation.** No significant environmental impact has been identified; no mitigation is required.

---

## 8.2 SEWER

### 8.2.1 Setting

(a) Citywide Wastewater Collection and Treatment. The City of Sunnyvale Department of Public Works oversees a wastewater collection system consisting of approximately 327 miles of wastewater mains. Wastewater effluent is routed to the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant, which is designed to treat 29.5 million gallons per day (mgd). The treated wastewater is discharged into San Francisco Bay via the lower extremity of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Sunnyvale West Channel, then via Guadalupe and Sunnyvale Sloughs.<sup>2</sup>

The Water Pollution Control Plant serves the entire city of Sunnyvale plus a population of approximately 8,000 outside the city limits. The plant produces approximately 16.5 mgd of high-grade effluent.<sup>3</sup> The plant--which is designed to remove conventional pollutants such as biodegradable organic matter, certain small solids, and ammonia--provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatments, including filtration and disinfection. The chlorine used in

---

<sup>1</sup>Craig, written communication, November 13, 2002.

<sup>2</sup>City of Sunnyvale General Plan, Environmental Management Element, Wastewater Management Sub-Element, 2001 Update, pp. 24, 36, and 9.

<sup>3</sup>Chu, personal communication, March 17, 2003.

disinfection is chemically neutralized prior to effluent discharge. The City's pretreatment program ensures that industries remove certain, industry-specific pollutants that are toxic to biological activity at the plant prior to discharge to the sanitary collection system.<sup>1</sup>

Plant capacity appears adequate, based on current use and updated projections. The Environmental Protection Agency requires that when flows reach 75 percent of design capacity, agencies begin to evaluate future needs and develop plans for expansion, if appropriate.<sup>2</sup> Based on current figures (16.5 mgd effluent/29.5 mgd plant capacity = 56 percent), it is not anticipated that the threshold will be met in the near future.

The Sunnyvale Water Recycling Program distributes recycled water from the Water Pollution Control Plant for irrigation of landscaping, schools, parks, and golf courses, and for groundwater recharge. By summer 2001, recycled water was being delivered to more than 60 public and private sites in northern Sunnyvale (near the plant), including Sunnyvale Golf Course, Baylands Park, and the Moffett Park industrial area. The City's *Recycled Water Master Plan* anticipates a long-term expansion of the system into central and southern Sunnyvale, with City parks providing the anchor sites. Total potential average recycled water use under the program is estimated at 3.5 mgd.<sup>3</sup>

Regulatory requirements governing the production, distribution, and use of recycled water are contained in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22 (Water Recycling Criteria) and Title 17 (Backflow Prevention). The Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued a Water Reuse Order (similar to an NPDES permit) to the City which reflects these requirements. The City, in turn, issues use permits to individual customers and monitors the use of recycled water by the customers to ensure that all regulatory requirements are met.<sup>4</sup>

(b) Sewer Mains in the Project Area. The project area is served by an extensive network of sewer mains ranging in diameter from 6 inches to 14 inches.<sup>5</sup>

(c) Wastewater Generation Factors. The City of Sunnyvale uses the following generation factors to estimate additional wastewater attributed to new development:<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 31, 35, and 36.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 36-37.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., pp. 9-10, 42-43.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 42.

<sup>5</sup>City of Sunnyvale Sewer System Map, provided by the Department of Public Works, December 2002.

<sup>6</sup>Craig, written communications, February 19 and March 18, 2003; and *Wastewater Management Sub-Element*, p. 36.

- 82 gallons per day (gpd) per resident for residential development; and
- 120 gpd per 1,000 square feet of building floor area for non-residential structures.

### **8.2.2 Pertinent Goals and Policies**

The City of Sunnyvale General Plan Environmental Management Element, Wastewater Management Sub-Element (2001 Update) contains the following goals, policies, and action statements pertinent to consideration of environmental impacts related to sewer service in the project area:

- *Ensure that the quantity and composition of wastewater generated in the City does not exceed the capabilities of the wastewater collection system and Water Pollution Control Plant. (Goal 3.3A, p. 54)*
- *If the average flow reaches 75 percent of design flow, review projected flows and existing plant capacity to determine the advisability of imposing a wastewater discharge moratorium. (Action Statement 3.3A.1b, p. 54)*
- *Maintain a fair and equitable allocation system of Water Pollution Control Plant treatment capacity to land use categories. (Action Statement 3.3A.1c)*
- *Continue to operate and maintain the wastewater collection system so that all sewage and industrial wastes generated within the city are collected and conveyed under safe and sanitary conditions to the Water Pollution Control Plant. (Goal 3.3B, p. 55)*
- *Monitor locations where the capacity is critical in the wastewater collection system. (Action Statement 3.3B.1b, p. 55)*
- *Continue to provide an optimum level of maintenance to the wastewater management system. (Action Statement 3.3B.1e, p. 56)*
- *Ensure that the City's 50-year infrastructure plan provides for necessary capital improvements and replacements. (Action Statement 3.3B.1g, p. 56)*
- *Continue to operate and maintain the Water Pollution Control Plant, using cost effective methods, so that all sewage and industrial wastes generated within the city receive sufficient treatment to meet the effluent discharge and receiving water standards of regulatory agencies. (Goal 3.3C, p. 56)*
- *Actively participate in the watershed management approach to solving water quality issues of the Santa Clara Basin Watershed and the South Bay. (Policy 3.3C.3, p. 57)*

- *Produce quality recycled water and seek to maximize the use of this resource.* (Policy 3.3C.4, p. 57)
- *Produce recycled water, fulfilling California Code of Regulations Title 22 water quality standards, to meet the demand of recycled water customers.* (Action Statement 3.3C.4a, p. 57)
- *Market recycled water to potential new customers and maximize the use of recycled water within the existing distribution area.* (Action Statement 3.3C.4c, p. 57)
- *Bi-annually review the 50-year plan for capital improvement and replacement needs.* (Action Statement 3.3D.5, p. 58)
- *Continue to make landowners responsible for maintenance of sewer laterals, with the exception that the City will make repairs to laterals between the property line and sewer mains caused by broken pipes and street tree roots.* (Action Statement 3.3D.6, p. 58)

### **8.2.3 Significance Criteria**

Based on the CEQA Guidelines (2002 edition, Appendix G, item XVI), the proposed project would result in a significant environmental impact related to sewer service if it would:

- (a) exceed the wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board;<sup>1</sup>
- (b) require or result in the construction of wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;<sup>2</sup> or
- (c) result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.<sup>3</sup>

### **8.2.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

**Project Impacts on Wastewater Services.** The project-facilitated growth scenario identified in this EIR would increase demands on the City's wastewater collection and treatment system. Based on the wastewater generation factors provided in subsection 8.2.1.c above, the 1,670

---

<sup>1</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, item XVI(a).

<sup>2</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, item XVI(b).

<sup>3</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, item XVI(e).



additional multi-family residential units and approximately 955,000 square feet of additional non-residential floor area (including the removal of the 155 hotel rooms) anticipated under the project would generate approximately 456,900 gpd of wastewater (342,300 gpd residential plus 114,600 gpd non-residential).

Based on the current remaining treatment capacity of the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant of 13 mgd (29.5 mgd plant capacity minus 16.5 mgd of current effluent = 13.0 mgd of remaining capacity--see subsection 8.2.1), the plant would be able to accommodate the approximately 456,900 gpd increase in wastewater generated by the proposed project, which would equal approximately 3.5 percent of the plant's current remaining treatment capacity ( $0.457 \text{ mgd} / 13.0 \text{ mgd} = 3.5 \text{ percent}$ ).

**Mitigation.** No significant impact has been identified; no mitigation is required.

---

**Local Sewer Main Capacity Impacts.** The Sunnyvale Department of Public Works has indicated plans to analyze, and possibly upgrade, wastewater mains throughout the project vicinity.<sup>1</sup> Construction activities associated with any such wastewater facility improvements would be temporary and occur within existing public rights of way. Construction-period traffic interruption, noise, and dust typically associated with such infrastructure construction would be mitigated through standard City construction-period mitigation procedures. No unusual, significant environmental impact would be anticipated with this construction activity.

Each site-specific project applicant would be responsible for installing any wastewater main upgrades deemed by the City to be necessary to handle anticipated peak loads. This responsibility would include the design and all costs associated with the installation/upgrade of the wastewater main and/or services.

**Mitigation.** No significant environmental impact has been identified; no mitigation is necessary.

---

### 8.3 POLICE

#### 8.3.1 Setting

The Police Services Division of the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety provides police protection and emergency services throughout the city of Sunnyvale. The Police Services

---

<sup>1</sup>Craig, written communication, January, 13, 2003.

Division is headquartered near City Hall, at 700 All American Way near El Camino Real and Pastoria Avenue. Officers patrol the city 24 hours per day.

(a) Staffing. The Police Services Division currently maintains a staff of 121 police patrol officers,<sup>1</sup> who serve a resident population of approximately 131,760 (2000 U.S. Census). This translates to an existing ratio of approximately 0.92 patrol officers per 1,000 residents. During the daytime hours, the ratio is reduced to approximately 0.52 officers per 1,000 people, due to the approximately 100,000 additional people (workers) in Sunnyvale. Police officers in Sunnyvale are also trained as firefighters (and vice versa), enabling officers to respond to and assist in fire emergencies, when required.

The minimum daily police presence in the city ranges from ten to 23 officers patrolling six beats.<sup>2</sup> In addition, there are two supervisors and one desk officer at headquarters. The Public Safety Department evaluates its staffing and equipment needs every fiscal year.<sup>3</sup>

(b) Emergency Response. Police response time to the project area varies with the call priority. Response time goals are set by the Sunnyvale City Council. Average response time for a Priority E (emergency) call (with lights and siren for a life hazard) in downtown Sunnyvale is 3 minutes, 18 seconds; 3 minutes, 15 seconds for a Priority 1 call; 4 minutes, 48 seconds for a Priority 2 call (non-life-threatening); and 12 minutes, 19 seconds for a Priority 3 call (patrol response).<sup>4</sup>

(c) Police Service in Project Area. The project area is located within Police Services Division Beat 3, which is approximately bounded by the city of Mountain View to the west, El Camino Real to the south, the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks to the north, and Fair Oaks Avenue to the east. Backup, if needed, is available from the other beats near the project area.

### **8.3.2 Pertinent Plans and Policies**

The *Public Safety Element, Law Enforcement Sub-Element* (adopted 1995) of the City of Sunnyvale General Plan contains the following goals that pertain to the police protection aspects of the proposed Downtown Improvement Program Update:

---

<sup>1</sup>Laura Gentry, Crime Analyst, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, Crime Analysis Unit, written communication, January 15, 2003.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Wagstaff and Associates, Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Sunnyvale Town Center Mall Modifications Project, January 1999, p. 9-7.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

- *Provide a safe and secure environment for people and property in the community. (Goal 4.1A, p. 140)*
- *Provide community-oriented services that are responsive to citizen's needs in traditionally non-criminal areas [e.g., addiction, mental illness, physical disabilities, age-related needs]. (Goal 4.1B, p. 145)*
- *Increase and maintain public confidence in the ability of the Public Safety Department to provide quality police services. (Goal 4.1C, p. 146)*
- *Conduct planning and administration that incorporate interaction with other City departments as well as other agencies, both public and private, where mutual concerns exist which could have impact on the delivery of law enforcement services. (Goal 4.1D, p. 147)*

### **8.3.3 Significance Criteria**

Based on the CEQA Guidelines (2002 edition, Appendix G, item XIIIa), the proposed project would create a significant environmental impact related to police service if it would:

- (a) result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police services.

### **8.3.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

**Project Impacts on Police Services.** The project and the project-facilitated growth scenario identified in this EIR would result in an increase in demand for emergency and non-emergency police services in order to maintain response time goals and other service needs.

The Police Services Division would review individual plans for future development activities in the project area to ensure that the plans:

- (a) meet the requirements of the Division's security standards;
- (b) provide for adequate exterior illumination; and
- (c) provide for adequate emergency access.

Under current circumstances, the cost of project-related increases in the need for police services would be paid for out of the City's General Fund. According to the Police Services Division, the project-facilitated growth scenario identified in this EIR would result in an increase

in citywide demand for police services, including a projected approximately five percent annual increase in citywide patrol calls over current conditions.<sup>1</sup> This increased staffing need would not meet the significance criteria suggested in Appendix G (Environmental Checklist Form), item XIII (Public Services), of the CEQA Guidelines--i.e., *"result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services."*

**Mitigation.** No significant environmental impact has been identified; no mitigation is required for CEQA purposes.

---

## 8.4 FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

### 8.4.1 Setting

The Fire Services Division of the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety provides fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS) throughout the city of Sunnyvale.

(a) Staffing and Equipment. Sunnyvale maintains six fire stations, with a total of 18 firefighters, six supervisors, and one battalion chief on duty each day. In addition, police officers (who are also trained as firefighters) maintain fire gear in their cars and are on-call. The Fire Services Division operates a tiered response system, where stations are added to a service call as needed, and participates in the Santa Clara Countywide Fire Mutual Aid Plan, should the need arise for outside resources.<sup>2</sup>

Existing EMS services include a single apparatus response on most medical aid calls (however, two apparatus respond to a vehicular accident); the two firefighters in each EMS apparatus are trained emergency medical technicians (EMTs). In addition, paramedic and ambulance service is provided under County contract with American Medical Response (AMR), a private company; the Fire Services Division does not transport patients.<sup>3</sup>

(b) Response Times. For fiscal year 2001/02, the average Fire Services Division response time throughout the city was 4 minutes, 25 seconds for medical emergencies; 5 minutes, 3

---

<sup>1</sup>Gentry.

<sup>2</sup>Lt. Randy Edwards, Fire Marshal, City of Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, written and personal communications, October 2002.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

seconds for fire-only calls; and 5 minutes, 25 seconds for all fire-related calls (i.e., every type of response).<sup>1</sup>

(c) Service in Project Area. Two fire stations serve the project area: (1) Fire Station #1 (which would respond first), located at Mathilda Avenue and California Avenue, includes a pumper, a 100-foot aerial ladder truck, one supervisor, and three officers; and (2) Fire Station #2, located at Wolfe Road and Arques Avenue, includes a pumper, a 100-foot aerial ladder truck, a multipurpose rescue apparatus, one supervisor, and five officers.<sup>2</sup>

(d) Emergency Response Plan and Emergency Access. The City of Sunnyvale maintains a citywide emergency response plan. Based on standard Fire Services Division emergency access requirements, emergency access to individual parcels/properties is considered adequate once any on-site construction is completed.<sup>3</sup>

#### **8.4.2 Pertinent Plans and Policies**

The *Public Safety Element, Fire Services Sub-Element* (adopted 1995) of the City of Sunnyvale General Plan contains the following goals that pertain to the fire protection and emergency medical aspects of the proposed Downtown Improvement Program Update:

- *Provide a fire services response system that will control the spread of fire in buildings and other properties and maintain minimal casualties and property loss from fire and other related emergencies. (Goal 4.2A, p. 138)*
- *Provide effective response capability for non-fire incidents that may directly endanger the lives, property, and well-being of the community. (Goal 4.2B, p. 142)*
- *Control the number and severity of fires and hazardous materials incidents and provide protection for the lives, welfare, and environment of people within the community. (Goal 4.2C, p. 144)*
- *Provide planning and administration while maintaining liaison with other agencies and organizations to provide a quality level of service to the community. (Goal 4.2D, p. 147)*

---

<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

#### **8.4.3 Significance Criteria**

Based on the CEQA Guidelines (2002 edition), the proposed project and project-facilitated growth scenario identified in this EIR would create a significant impact on the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services if it would:

- (a) result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection;<sup>1</sup>
- (b) result in possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan;<sup>2</sup> or
- (c) result in inadequate emergency access.<sup>3</sup>

#### **8.4.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

**Impacts on Fire Protection/Emergency Medical Services.** Anticipated residential and commercial development in the project area (the project-facilitated growth scenario summarized in Table 3.3) would produce increases in future service calls for fire suppression and emergency medical services (EMS) provided by the Sunnyvale Fire Services Division. If the division is not provided with new facilities, staffing, and training, the result would be an increase in response times and a projected approximately five percent increase in fire and EMS calls over current conditions.<sup>4</sup> Until specific Fire Services Division facilities expansion needs are identified in terms of size, staffing, equipment, and location, assessment of associated environmental impacts would be highly speculative. As a result, this EIR does not identify a significant "environmental" impact under CEQA--i.e., it has not been determined that the project effects would meet the significance criteria suggested in Appendix G (Environmental Checklist Form), item XIII (Public Services), of the CEQA Guidelines--i.e., *"result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services."*

---

<sup>1</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, item XIII(a).

<sup>2</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, item VII(g).

<sup>3</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, item XV(e).

<sup>4</sup>Gentry.

The following standard Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety (DPS) requirements would be applied to each future individual development within the project area:

- Prior to approval of discretionary projects in the project area, the property owners/developer may be required to submit an emergency fire access plan to DPS for review and approval to ensure that service to the site is in accordance with DPS service requirements.
- Have sprinklers installed by the property owners/developer in accordance with the City of Sunnyvale Municipal Code.
- Prior to issuance of building permits in the project area, the property owners/developer may also be required to submit a Construction Fire Protection Plan, which includes detailed design plans for accessibility of emergency fire equipment, fire hydrant locations, and other construction features required by the Fire Marshal. In such cases, the property owners/developer is responsible for securing facilities acceptable to DPS, and hydrants are required to be operational with required fire flow.
- Prior to issuance of a building permit for substantive developments within the project area, the property owners/developer must submit, for approval from the Fire Marshal and Building Official, fire protection/prevention measures to be implemented during construction.

In addition, City of Sunnyvale Ordinance No. 1996-81 emphasizes fire prevention, suppression, and containment capabilities within high-rise and underground/basement structures. The following requirements must be incorporated in buildings over 75 feet in height in accordance with Sunnyvale Municipal Code chapter 16.54:

- Install adequate sprinkler and water delivery systems;
- Install and maintain a building central control station and properly trained personnel to handle necessary functions;
- Install an adequate alarm and building voice communication system;
- Install an elevator system which is capable of being used for transporting firefighters to the fire and occupants away from it;
- Install a smoke control system which will detect and announce the presence of combustion by-products and exhaust them;
- Install and maintain standby power systems sufficient to handle emergency situations;

- Install, equip, and maintain Fire Division equipment rooms so that adequate firefighting equipment is properly maintained and available on the scene;
- Install an approved lock-box system to preserve the integrity of the safety equipment and systems, and to allow Fire Division access to all parts of the buildings; and
- Install and maintain an emergency helicopter landing facility or other approved system to facilitate firefighting and rescue procedures. Alternate methods may be acceptable if designed to provide a direct means of access and egress from the ground to the top of the building (e.g., a stairway from the ground to the top of the building that is not interconnected at any of the intervening floors).

**Mitigation.** No significant impact has been identified; no mitigation beyond standard Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety requirements is required.

---

## 8.5 SCHOOLS

### 8.5.1 Setting

(1) Schools Serving the Project Area. The project area is served by the Sunnyvale School District (grades K-8) and the Fremont Union High School District (grades 9-12). Elementary school students (grades K-5) from the project area attend Bishop Elementary School at 450 North Sunnyvale Avenue, Cumberland Elementary School at 824 Cumberland Avenue, Ellis Elementary School at 550 East Olive Avenue, and Vargas Elementary School at 1054 Carson Drive. Junior high school students (grades 6-8) from the project area attend Columbia Middle School at 739 Morse Avenue and Sunnyvale Middle School at 1080 Mango Avenue. High school students (grades 9-12) attend Fremont High School, located at 1279 Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road.

The Sunnyvale School District has reported that "all public elementary and middle schools serving the area of downtown Sunnyvale are presently at, or over, the design capacity of the schools."<sup>1</sup> The Fremont Union High School District has reported that Fremont High School "is very near capacity."<sup>2</sup>

Both school districts serving the project area obtain funding from several different sources to continue providing adequate school services as the city grows. There is currently a state-

---

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Benjamin Picard, Deputy Superintendent, Sunnyvale School District, written communication in response to EIR Notice of Preparation, October 17, 2002.

<sup>2</sup>Gene Longinetti, Director of Business and Property Services, Fremont Union High School District, written communication, October 8, 2002.



authorized school impact fee levied by the Fremont Union High School District on new residential and commercial development, currently set at \$0.78/square foot for residential units and up to \$0.33/square foot for commercial and industrial space (depending on particular use); the current fee levied by the Sunnyvale School District is \$1.27/square foot for residential units, with no fee on commercial or industrial space. Alternate funding sources come from state and district bond issues, Mello-Roos Community Facilities District "Special Taxes," general fund money, redevelopment funds, and state grants.

### **8.5.2 Significance Criteria**

Growth facilitated by the proposed Improvement Program Update may be considered in this EIR to have a potentially significant impact on school services if it would:<sup>1</sup>

- (a) result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need for or provision of new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable performance objectives.

### **Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

**Impacts on Public School Facilities.** The level of new residential development permitted in the project area under the proposed Improvement Program Update (Table 3.3 herein indicates up to 1,670 additional residential units by the year 2020) would result in increased school enrollments. Based on student yield factors of 0.30 K-8 students and 0.029 high school (grades 9-12) students per multi-family residential unit,<sup>2</sup> the residential component (1,670 units) of the proposed project would generate an estimated 250 K-8 students and 48 9-12 students at full project occupancy (i.e., by the year 2020), resulting in a total of approximately 300 new K-12 students over the next 17 years. The actual effect on the school districts would depend on future enrollment and capacity conditions. The Sunnyvale School District has concluded that the district "will need assistance from developers and/or the City of Sunnyvale in addressing the lack of public school space to accommodate any growth in the number of students generated from residential development in the [project] area,"<sup>3</sup> while the Fremont Union High School District has concluded that, if the majority of project residential units are multi-family (as anticipated under the proposed project), school impact fees would mitigate the potential impact.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, item XIII(a).

<sup>2</sup>Student yield factors provided by Redwood City School District (K-8) and Fremont Union High School District (9-12), 2002.

<sup>3</sup>Picard.

<sup>4</sup>Longinetti.

Future developers within the project area will be required to pay the state-authorized school impact fees to the extent approved by each school district. Pursuant to section 65995(3)(h) of the California Government Code (Senate Bill 50, chaptered August 27, 1998), the payment of statutory fees *"...is deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization...."* Therefore, subsequent to payment of statutory fees, school impacts would be considered ***less-than-significant***. If state-authorized school impact fees and any other mitigation fees do not totally cover the costs of any necessary school facility improvements, voluntary development agreements should also be considered; future applicants for specific projects within the project area could voluntarily enter into a development agreement with either or both school districts to fund improvements. These measures would be expected to enable the districts to fund school improvements necessary to accommodate students from project-facilitated development.

**Mitigation.** No significant school services related environmental impacts have been identified; no mitigation is required.

---

## 8.6 PARKS AND RECREATION

### 8.6.1 Setting

(a) Local Park and Recreation Facilities. The Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Department maintains City parks and provides a variety of recreational services, including open space, athletic, arts, and play/social/gathering facilities (e.g., sports complex, senior center). For parks and recreation purposes, the Downtown Improvement Program Update project area is within the boundaries of the Washington Neighborhood Planning Area.<sup>1</sup> The existing inventory of open space/recreational facilities within this planning area includes:

- Ellis Elementary School: 4.5 acres
- Vargas Elementary School: 5.07 acres
- City Hall campus (includes City Hall, Public Safety Building, and library): 13.8 acres
- Washington Park: 11.5 acres

Total = 34.87 acres.

---

<sup>1</sup>Cathy E. Merrill, Assistant to the Director of Parks and Recreation, Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Department, written communication, October 22, 2002.

The two elementary schools are owned by the Sunnyvale School District, but portions of the outdoor playfields are maintained by the City under a cooperative use agreement. Because the City does not own these sites, the City cannot assure their continued inclusion in the open space inventory beyond the date of the current agreement, which is 2016. In addition, the school district or the City can terminate the agreement at any time with 90 days' notice. These school sites are comprised of athletic fields only (i.e., they offer no other recreational amenities to the public) and are not open to the public during school hours.

The City Hall campus (City Hall, Public Safety Building, and library) adds open space to the City's inventory, but the landscaped site is not designed to serve the active recreational needs of residents.

The Washington Neighborhood Planning Area currently includes the City's Senior Center. A new Senior Center is now being constructed in a different neighborhood planning area; upon completion of the new center, the open space/recreational facilities associated with the current Senior Center will no longer be available to the general public for recreation use. As a result, the open space associated with this site has not been included in the above listing.

Currently, Washington Park is the only open space in the Washington Neighborhood Planning Area that provides a variety of recreational amenities to area residents and businesses. The park was renovated in the 1990s to include more neighborhood amenities such as children's play areas and smaller group picnic areas. Outside the Downtown Improvement Program Update area, but in the nearby vicinity, Murphy Park--on the northeast corner of California and Sunnyvale Avenues--is located approximately one-half mile north of the CalTrain station (i.e., the northern boundary of the project area). This approximately 5.38-acre park contains a multi-use field, barbecue picnic area, lawn bowling green, and a historical museum. The City is in the process of expanding Murphy Park, which will eventually total approximately six acres.

In March 2000, in response to citizen concerns that the city's neighborhood parks were being used beyond capacity, staff undertook a study titled *Park Capacity and Use Analysis* (Report to Council No. 00-033, March 28, 2000). That study concluded that, although there were no exact means to measure park capacity, guidelines included in the General Plan *Recreation Sub-Element* (revised 1993) and the planning guidelines used by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) could be applied to generally determine local recreational space needs based on community population. The NPRA recommends that a park system, at a minimum, be comprised of 6.25 to 10.50 acres of developed (recreational) open space per 1,000 population. In 1992, there were 6.9 acres of recreational space per 1,000 residents in Sunnyvale. Since then, population growth has outpaced relative increases in recreational space acreage. In 2001/2002, there were 6.3 acres of recreational space per 1,000 population, an amount close to the minimum standard. While the use of an acres-per-person rate is a more exacting way to measure the adequacy of recreational open space provisions in any given community, other factors, such as the availability of community or regional open space, also warrant consideration. One key finding in the *Park Capacity Study* was an

identified lack of a community park--i.e., a place that could be used to host a variety of community events. The planned 1.6-acre Evelyn Plaza in the project area is intended to be used as a community park (currently in the planning stages).<sup>1</sup>

In 2000, in response to the City's *Park Capacity Study*, the Parks and Recreation Commission requested that staff further review the use of acres-per-person standards to determine the adequacy and/or ability of the city's *neighborhood parks* to serve each of the City's nine planning areas. The NPRA's national standards and guidelines recommend an open space system that includes anywhere from one to two acres of *neighborhood park* per thousand population. Washington Park is the only neighborhood park within the Washington Planning Area, and it currently provides less than 0.80 acres of open space per 1,000 population.<sup>2</sup>

The City's Zoning Code (section 19.74.030) requires that 1.25 acres of property for each 1,000 persons residing within each neighborhood planning area be devoted to public parks and recreational facilities (including open space available for active recreation). In 2000, the Washington Planning Area included approximately 22 acres of open space (Washington Park plus Ellis and Vargas Elementary school sites), equating to 1.75 acres of recreational space per 1,000 population. This ratio, although greater than the Zoning Code required minimum and within the standard set by NPRA, is the lowest when compared to the other eight neighborhood planning areas.<sup>3</sup> *Project-specific* requirements for usable open space (Zoning Code section 19.38.070) are described below under Pertinent Plans and Policies.

#### **8.6.2 Pertinent Plans and Policies**

(a) City of Sunnyvale General Plan. The City of Sunnyvale General Plan Cultural Element, Recreation Sub-Element (adopted 1993) contains the following goals, policies, and action statements pertinent to consideration of the proposed project's potential effects on parks and recreation:

- *Monitor and support private and residential recreation, which relieves demand for City services.* (Action Statement B.1.i, p. 120)
- *Provide opportunities for high-quality leisure involvement which promotes the physical and mental well-being of the community, and ensure equal opportunity for participation.* (Goal D, p. 125)
- *Implement program offerings to meet the need of identified subgroups within the population.* (Policy D.2, p. 126)

---

<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

- *Continue the provision and development of programs for individuals with disabilities. (Action Statement D.2.a, p. 126)*
- *Meet or exceed requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, making programmatic adjustments where necessary, to provide equal access to programs, events, and services. (Action Statement D.2.b, p. 126)*
- *Provide balanced programming to fully address the needs, concerns, and interests of older adults. (Action Statement D.2.c, p. 126)*
- *Provide programming which meets the needs of families and changing family structures, including single parents, two-income, and economically disadvantaged families. (Actions Statement D.2.d, p. 126)*
- *Identify the recreational needs of the business community and its employees, and assess the role of the Parks and Recreation Department in addressing these needs. (Action Statement D.2.f, p. 126)*
- *Provide recreation programs which meet the complex needs of youth. (Policy D.3, p. 127)*
- *Develop and implement programs for pre-school children which address developmental needs for care and supervision, socialization, and activity. (Action Statement D.3.a, p. 127)*
- *Develop and implement programs for school-age and high school youth which address developmental needs for structure, role models, positive values, skill building, community involvement, and socialization. (Action Statement D.3.c, p. 127)*
- *Provide and maintain recreation facilities based on community need, as well as on the ability of the City to finance, construct, maintain, and operate these facilities now and in the future. (Goal E, p. 128)*
- *Provide, maintain, and operate recreation facilities, such as swimming pools, tennis courts, golf courses, athletic fields, trails, parks, arts facilities, community centers, park centers, and other specialized facilities in a safe, high-quality, usable condition that will serve and meet the recreational needs of the community. (Policy E.1, p. 128)*
- *Provide a balance of facility offerings that allows opportunities for non-reserved, unstructured use. (Action Statement E.1.g, p. 129)*
- *Work with other City departments, such as Public Works and Public Safety, to encourage the design, development, and maintenance of public right-of-ways to promote recreational*

*activities, such as bicycling, jogging, and walking, in a safe and efficient manner. (Action Statement E.1.h, p. 129)*

- *Provide recreation facilities that will accommodate and meet the needs and interests of special population groups. (Policy E.2, p. 129)*
- *Comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act in all new construction, and wherever possible and/or required, in existing facilities. (Action Statement E.2.b, p. 129)*
- *Provide a broad range of facilities to meet the recreational needs of a diverse population. (Policy E.3, p. 130)*

The *Open Space Sub-Element* (adopted 1992) contains the following goals, policies, and action statements (excerpted from the General Plan Executive Summary) pertinent to consideration of the project's potential effects on parks and recreation:

- *Support the development of plazas, linear parks, and pocket parks along pedestrian pathways in the downtown area as designated in the Downtown Specific Plan. (Policy C.4f, Report to Mayor and Council, March 18, 2003)*
- *Provide consistently high quality customer service through attractive open space, parks, and facilities which invite and facilitate public use. (Policy 2.2A.2, p. 5)*
- *Develop, redevelop, modify, or enhance sites and facilities based upon the findings of periodic needs assessments. (Action Statement 2.2A.2b, p. 5)*
- *Provide a comprehensive program of consistent and effective operations and maintenance for all open space and park sites and facilities. (Policy 2.2A.3, p. 6)*
- *Acquire and develop open space identified as high priority through land dedication or purchase. (Goal 2.2B, p. 6)*
- *Require the dedication of land by developers when the property to be developed is adjacent to an existing open space, park site, or area otherwise identified as a high priority for open space uses. (Policy 2.2B.1, p. 6)*
- *Review and evaluate open space and land acquisition/development opportunities on an ongoing basis. (Action Statement 2.2B.3a, p. 7)*
- *Participate in the review of all development and redevelopment projects which may result in park dedication fees that will be applied to the Capital Improvement Program for jointly developed and operated projects. (Action Statement 2.2B.4a, p. 7)*

- *Maintain a system of parks that assures all residents, workers, and visitors access to recreation opportunities by providing neighborhood parks, athletic/play fields, and special use facilities. (Goal 2.2C, p. 7)*
- *Complete development of new park sites concurrent with the surrounding residential development as appropriate. (Action Statement 2.2C.1c, p. 8)*
- *Consider acquisition or lease of sites to assure that accessible open space is maintained in each existing neighborhood and provided to any new neighborhoods. (Action Statement 2.2C.1e, p. 8)*
- *Jointly develop or redevelop athletic/play field sites with the appropriate school district per established agreements. (Action Statement 2.2C.2c, p. 8)*
- *Continue close cooperation with the School Districts for joint planning, design, and development of open space and recreational facilities on school sites for community use. (Action Statement 2.2D.1a, p. 9)*

In addition, the *Land Use and Transportation Element* (adopted 1997) contains the following action statements pertinent to consideration of the project's potential effects on parks and recreation:

- *Encourage employers to provide on-site facilities, such as usable open space, health club facilities, and child care, where appropriate. (Action Statement N1.14.4, p. 176)*
- *Maintain and promote convenient community centers and services that enhance neighborhood cohesiveness and provide social and recreational opportunities. (Action Statement N1.14.5, p. 176)*

The *Community Design Sub-Element* (adopted 1990) also contains the following action statement relevant to consideration of the proposed project's potential effects on parks and recreation:

- *Continue to provide public parks where people can enjoy nature, exercise, socialize, and relax. (Action Statement D.2a, p. 104)*
- *Continue to provide courtyard and public plazas around City buildings, and encourage at least one large plaza downtown. (Action Statement D.2b, Report to Mayor and Council, March 18, 2003)*

The Sunnyvale Downtown Specific Plan (adopted 1993) contains the following goal pertinent consideration of parks and recreation impacts:

- *Ensure that adequate private open space is designed into new residential projects. (Goal G.OS-2, p. 7)*
- *Increase open space and pedestrian-oriented environments in the downtown. (Urban Design Goal 2, Report to Mayor and Council, March 18, 2003)*
- *Provide a public open space system in the downtown which links districts together and provides a pedestrian-oriented framework around which buildings are sited. (Open Space Goal 1, Report to Mayor and Council, March 18, 2003)*

(b) City of Sunnyvale Zoning Code Section 19.38.070. Sunnyvale Zoning Code section 19.38.070 (Landscaping, irrigation, and usable space) requires “usable open space” in all R-2 (Low Medium Density) through R-5 (High Density) residential developments, ranging in size from 500 square feet per R-2 unit to 380 square feet per R-5 unit. In addition, R-2 and Downtown Specific Plan subdistricts 8 through 12 require 1,000 square feet of usable open space for an accessory living unit. “Usable open space” is defined in the Zoning Code (section 19.38.070.h) as open space “designed to be accessible to, and usable for, outdoor living, recreation or utility use. Usable open space does not include parking facilities, driveways, or any required front yard area.” A portion of this requirement can be met through the provision of private balconies, usable roofs, decks, and porches. In addition, the City has required play equipment and “tot lots” to help satisfy usable open space requirements.

### **8.6.3 Significance Criteria**

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the project may be considered in this EIR to have a potentially significant impact on parks and recreation services if it would:<sup>1</sup>

- (a) result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need for or provision of new or physically altered parks and recreation facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives;
- (b) increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or
- (c) include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

---

<sup>1</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, items XIII(a) and XIV(a and b).



#### **8.6.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

**Increase in Demand for Parks and Recreation Services.** Project-facilitated development and intensification in the project area would increase the demand for downtown parks and recreation services. As discussed in section 6.3 (Population, Housing, and Employment Impacts), it is estimated that project-facilitated development would generate a population increase of approximately 4,175 people. Based on the City of Sunnyvale park acreage standards of 1.25 acres of public park and recreational land for each 1,000 people residing in the planning area, this residential growth would generate a demand for approximately 5.2 acres of public parks and recreational facilities (4,125 people x 1.25 acres/1,000 population). Project-facilitated employment growth, estimated at 2,941 jobs by the year 2020, may also generate additional demand for parks and recreation services in the project area. Existing facilities in the Washington Planning Area do not have sufficient capacity to accommodate this additional demand.

The Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Department has suggested<sup>1</sup> that, where possible and in addition to usable open space requirements (see subsection 8.6.2.b above), residential developers should be required to set aside a portion of land for open space. While the Zoning Code (chapter 19.74) does have a provision to pay "in lieu" fees instead of dedicating land, the lack of available public land to develop as a neighborhood park is a significant concern to the department. Should the approximately 1,670 additional residential units facilitated by the project be occupied by 4,125 residents as projected (see chapter 6 herein), the City would need approximately 5.2 acres of additional neighborhood parkland within the Washington Park Planning Area over the next 20 years to maintain the minimum standard. This space would ideally be located on the east side of Mathilda Avenue, within walking distance of the new residential areas; alternatively, or in combination with new park space, the planned expansion and improvements of Murphy Park, although outside the planning area, will be able to accommodate increased recreational activity. Washington Park alone will not be able to absorb the difference resulting from the increased population, and the future Evelyn Plaza on Evelyn Avenue (see chapter 4, Land Use, herein) is intended to serve as a community gathering place, not a neighborhood park.

The current in-lieu park dedication fees for multi-family residential developments are \$4,425.15 per unit. Assuming that all the project-proposed 1,670 net new multi-family residential units are constructed, the City would collect approximately \$7.39 million in park dedication fees, which would be available for creating and/or improving parkland and recreational facilities in the planning area. The fees are periodically reviewed by the City and can be adjusted over time.

The Parks and Recreation Department suggests that developers of office buildings or complexes be encouraged to include employee amenities for exercise and recreation activities,

---

<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

such as work-out rooms and meeting spaces for club activities, in order to lessen future demands for increased recreational space provided by the City.

Sponsors of project-facilitated developments within the downtown area would be required to comply with the City's standard parkland dedication or in-lieu park impact fee requirements. These measures have been formulated to ensure that project growth impacts related to parks and recreation would remain at a ***less-than-significant level***.

**Mitigation.** No significant impacts have been identified; no mitigation beyond existing City requirements is required.

---

## 8.7 SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

### 8.7.1 Setting

Solid waste collection (both refuse and recyclables), transfer, and disposal in Sunnyvale is handled by Bay Counties Waste Services (Specialty Solid Waste and Recycling), through an exclusive franchise with the City. All solid waste collected in the city is delivered to the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer (SMaRT®) Station at 301 Carl Road in Sunnyvale. Approximately 17 percent of the solid waste received at the SMaRT Station is diverted for recycling. The remainder is hauled to Kirby Canyon Landfill in San Jose. The landfill has approximately 30 years' capacity remaining.<sup>1</sup>

The Integrated Waste Management Act required local governments to prepare and implement plans to achieve 50 percent waste reduction by the year 2000. The City of Sunnyvale achieved this goal by 1997.<sup>2</sup>

### 8.7.2 Pertinent Plans and Policies

The City of Sunnyvale General Plan Environmental Management Element, Solid Waste Sub-Element (adopted in 1996 and referenced below from the General Plan Executive Summary) contains the following goal, policies, and action statements pertinent to consideration of the solid waste and recycling service impacts of the proposed project:

- *Reduce solid waste disposal to 50 percent or less of the amount generated in 1990 (as adjusted to reflect population and economic changes) in the most cost-effective manner.*  
[Goal 3.2B, p. (3.2)3]

---

<sup>1</sup>Gail Bentley, Solid Waste Specialist, City of Sunnyvale Department of Public Works, written communication, October 21, 2002.

<sup>2</sup>Olson Cherry Orchard Mixed-Use Project Final EIR, p. III.12-2.

- *Provide source reduction programs that reduce the generation of solid waste. [Action Statement 3.2B.1a, p. (3.2)3]*
- *Maximize diversion of solid waste from disposal by use of demand management techniques, providing and promoting recycling programs, and encouraging private sector recycling. [Policy 3.2B.2, p. (3.2)4]*
- *Provide, or facilitate the provision of, recycling collection services to residential, commercial, and industrial customers in a cost-effective way that allows achievement of the 50 percent diversion goal. [Action Statement 3.2B.2b, p. (3.2)4]*
- *Meet or exceed all federal, state, and local laws and regulations concerning solid waste diversion and implementation of recycling and source reduction programs. [Policy 3.2B.3, p. (3.2)4]*
- *Periodically update the Sunnyvale Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE), and perform related tasks as required by state law. [Action Statement 3.2B.3a, p. (3.2)4]*
- *Continue to implement the source reduction and recycling programs described in the SRRE. [Action Statement 3.2B.3b, p. (3.2)4]*
- *Annually assess the amount of disposal capacity available with existing disposal arrangements and projected disposal amounts. [Action Statement 3.2D.1a, p. (3.2)5]*
- *When available disposal capacity equals ten years or less, initiate actions to arrange for sufficient capacity to accommodate present and projected city needs. [Action Statement 3.2D.1b, p. (3.2)5]*
- *Reduce the amount of refuse being disposed, generate recycling revenues, and minimize truck travel to the disposal site through use of the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer (SMaRT) Station. [Policy 3.2D.2, p. (3.2)5]*
- *Whenever practical, select to dispose of hazardous wastes by reuse, recycling, incineration, and landfilling, in that order. [Action Statement 3.2E, 1b, p. (3.2)6]*
- *Periodically update the Sunnyvale Household Hazardous Waste Element (HWWWE), and perform related tasks as required by state law. [Action Statement 3.2E.4a, p. (3.2)6]*

### **8.7.3 Significance Criteria**

The project would be considered in this EIR to have a potentially significant impact on solid waste and recycling services if its implementation would:<sup>1</sup>

- (a) require or result in the construction of new solid waste disposal facilities, or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;
- (b) be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's waste disposal needs; or
- (c) breach published national, state, or local standards relating to solid waste or litter control.

### **8.7.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

**Solid Waste and Recycling Service Impacts.** Anticipated additional development in the project area under the proposed project growth scenario (see Table 3.3) would increase demand for solid waste collection and disposal services. The City's standard fee for solid waste service is expected to be adequate to cover the cost of any necessary additional solid waste disposal services; the Sunnyvale Department of Public Works has noted<sup>2</sup> that Bay Counties Waste Services is contracted to service Sunnyvale and will acquire additional equipment and/or employees as needed to accommodate growth. Landfill capacity is expected to be available for approximately another 30 years (through approximately 2033), as noted in subsection 8.7.1 above, and any future landfill expansion options would be subject to their own CEQA compliance obligations. The project impact on solid waste and recycling services would therefore be considered ***less-than-significant***.

The Sunnyvale Department of Public Works has suggested the following standards for all future development facilitated in the project area by the proposed project:<sup>3</sup>

- provide adequate facilities for storage and collection of industrial, commercial, retail, and residential solid waste and recycling;
- incorporate waste reduction practices/standards into all phases of development; and
- incorporate recycled-content products into all phases of construction to increase end-use demand for recycled materials, which would help offset the additional waste generated by the proposed project.

---

<sup>1</sup>CEQA Guidelines (2002), Appendix G, item XVI (b), (f) and (g).

<sup>2</sup>Bentley.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

**Mitigation.** No significant impacts have been identified; no mitigation is required.

